

Was Phone Operator Caught in the Middle

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CPYRGHT

Sally T. Hucks, whose second trial on charges of perjury and obstructing justice is underway in District Court, is pictured by her attorney as a "hapless, \$65-a-week telephone operator" who is a victim of both the Teamsters Union and the Senate Labor Rackets Committee.

Atty. Benedict F. FitzGerald Jr. suggested yesterday that Mrs. Hucks, 46-year-old chief operator at the Woodner Hotel, was subpoenaed to testify before the Committee just to "set her up for a perjury indictment."

The charge came in cross-examination of the Government's second witness, Committee Chairman John J. McClellan (D., Ark.). The senator denied it and calmly explained his Committee legislative purpose.

COVER-UPPER?

Mrs. Hucks was called on to produce telephone records of the Teamster suite at the hotel. She is charged with destroying them or falsifying some.

Mr. FitzGerald said it was part of her job in a hotel frequented by "hoods . . . prostitutes and criminals," to "preserve the secrecy of what went on."

Mrs. Hucks is being tried with two co-defendants: Atty. Joseph M. Williamson, of Urbana, Ill., and former New York Teamster Moss Herman.

Mrs. Hucks is also charged with lying to the Committee when she said she did not have a mink stole. (The Government claims she was given one for favors to the Teamsters.)

Mrs. Hucks is also accused of trying to influence the grand jury testimony of three phone operators working under her by telling them she did not have such a stole.

LEGAL DEBATE

Mr. FitzGerald asked Sen. McClellan about the right of investigator Carmine Bellino to go into the Woodner telephone room to search for records allegedly not brought to the committee.

"If you mean going to the furnace and finding some burnt pieces of paper . . ."

Mr. McClellan changed the subject to the matter of a

search warrant. Sen. McClellan said he didn't know whether one would be necessary for such a room.